

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00365 090541Z

13

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /067 W

----- 122422

R 081230Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4455

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MAPUTO 0365

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ , RH

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT RELEASES FOUR RHODESIAN OFFICIALS

REF: MAPUTO 359

1. AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 6 RELEASED IN THE CUSTODY OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN MAPUTO THE FOUR RHODESIAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT MACHEL'S MARCH 3 SPEECH IMPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTHERN RHODESIA. THE FOUR OFFICIALS WERE IDENTIFIED AS DAVID J. FIELD, BRUCE FRASER, RONALD BROADBLET AND THOMAS MERCER. (FRASER'S WIFE AND CHILD WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE MOZAMBIQUE TWO WEEKS AGO.) UNTIL THEIR RELEASE, THE FOUR RHODESIANS HAD BEEN UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN MAPUTO.

2. AT THE LOW KEY CEREMONY IN WHICH THE MEN WERE TURNED OVER TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00365 090541Z

OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "TAKING INTO

ACCOUNT FRELIMO'S POLICY OF CLVEMENCY WHICH WAS DEMONSTRATED IN RELATION TO THE PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE PROCESS OF OUR NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE; CONSIDERING FRELIMO'S TRADITION OF ALWAYS FREEING CIVILIAN PORTUGUESE FOUND IN THE WAR ZONES; AND, RECOGNIZING THAT SOUTHERN RHODESIA IS A COLONY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND ITS CITIZENS ARE BRITISH SUBJECTS, AND THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS NOT AT WAR WITH BRITAIN OR ITS TERRITORIES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO RELEASE TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN MOZAMBIQUE, THE BRITISH SUBJECTS OF ITS RHODESIAN COLONY, TEMPORARILY INTERNED IN THE PERIOD AFTER SANCTIONS WERE ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 3."

3. SHORTLY AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE FOUR RHODESIANS WERE DRIVEN IN A BRITISH EMBASSY VEHICLE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER WHERE THEY WERE TURNED OVER TO SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THIS MAGNANIMOUS GESTURE, THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT IS STILL HOLDING AT LEAST 16 RHODESIAN RAILWAY MEN ARRESTED NEAR MALVERNIA AND MACHINPANDA ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MARCH 3 BORDER CLOSURE. THE MOZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES DID NOT INFORM THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WHEN THESE MEN WOULD BE RELEASED, AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES.
DE PREE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, PRISONERS RELEASE, HONORARY CONSULAR OFFICERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MAPUTO00365
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760134-0550
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760483/aaaactau.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MAPUTO 359
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT RELEASES FOUR RHODESIAN OFFICIALS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006